



***Emerging Issues Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*October 9, 2008*

**Summary**

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Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (11):

Gary Wolf, proxy for Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)  
Michelle Neitch, proxy for Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)  
Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)—via conference call  
Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)—via conference call  
Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)—via conference call  
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)—via conference call  
Meena Shahi (First Things First)—via conference call  
David Choate, Co-Chair (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)  
Officer Bobbie Moreland (Phoenix Police Department)  
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)  
Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (3):

Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)  
Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)  
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public (0):



**Call to Order** was made by Dennis Embry at 1:00 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Dennis Embry asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- June and July meeting minutes were approved by the group.

**Announcements**

- There were no announcements.

**Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group/ASAP**

- Jeanne Blackburn updated the group on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and on the ASAP.
  - The data for the Snapshot document compiled by the members of the Epi Work Group have been submitted and by the next Epi Work Group meeting, a draft will be ready for the group to review, with the goal of the group having finished editing the document and begun the vetting process by November.
  - With the departure of the Governor's Chief of Staff, Dennis Burke from the Governor's Office, the new chair of ASAP is the Governor's new Chief of Staff, Jan Lescher, previous Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce.
  - While the work on ASAP's four strategic focus areas for 2008 will continue, four additional areas for 2009 have been identified. They are:
    - *Underage Drinking;*
    - *Media Campaigns;*
    - *Prescription Drug Abuse;*
    - *and Drug-Endangered Children.*
  - Similar to the 2008 focus areas, each of these new areas will have an Executive Action Briefing document with problem areas identified as well as the agencies/persons responsible for the work and the outcomes resulting from the work.
  - Dennis Embry asked if there was anything that the Emerging Issues Subcommittee could do to assist ASAP.
    - Jeanne Blackburn responded that a Spotlight Report on heroin might be useful as the increase in heroin seizures in Arizona has raised questions about the prevalence of use and consequences associated with the drug and the Canary Survey might be targeted to treatment providers to uncover any increases in heroin use among people seeking substance abuse treatment services or changes in the way the drug is obtained, purity level, type of heroin used, etc.



### **Spotlight Projects: Children's Bipolar Disorder and Rx Drug Abuse; Focus Group Results**

- Dennis Embry asked for volunteers to edit the Spotlight reports to move them along for eventual presentation to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.
  - Michelle Neitch volunteered to update the data and narrative in the document.
  - Meena Shahi and David Choate volunteered to review the document after it has been updated and David Choate volunteered to check the references.
  - Dennis Embry will double-check the references section against the notes section.
    - The Emerging Issues Subcommittee voted to empower these editors to act as an ad-hoc committee with the ability to make the final decisions on edits to the Rx Drug Spotlight Report.
  - Provided that all comments and updates are made to the report, it can be viewed and voted on in November and then be presented to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group at its November meeting.
- The group discussed some of the edits to be made to the Rx Drug Abuse Spotlight report, including graph titles, updating the data, graphics, caveats, sub-populations, single-year data vs. longitudinal trends, etc.
- The group decided to table the Children's Bipolar Disorder until a future date.

### **Canary Survey: Finalization of Distribution Lists and Survey Questions**

- David Choate discussed the need for closed-ended questions (vs. open-ended questions) in the Canary Survey to ensure that data collected are consistent and routinized, using both "closed" drug categories as well as open-ended questions to identify emerging concerns.
- Identified next steps include:
  - New draft will be created incorporating comments from the group.
    - Identification of agencies/organizations to be surveyed will determine the exact questions to be asked.
      - David Choate suggested writing the survey questions as generically as possible with differing transition statements to be used depending upon the population to be surveyed, as well as a question designed to identify the position of the person completing the survey in order to determine whether the person who is completing the survey instrument is a first responder.
        - Group members should send questions to Dennis Embry to be added to the survey. These questions should be questions that will add the perspective of the member's respective agency and should be accompanied by a rationale for adding the question and the manner in which the question(s) should be asked (e.g., open-ended, closed-ended, Likert scale, etc.).
        - The Emerging Issues Subcommittee will refine the survey after all the questions have been added by group members (and incorporated by Dennis Embry).
      - Bobbie Moreland started a discussion of how a survey of School Resource Officers (SROs) could be conducted and indicated that City of Phoenix SROs meet on a quarterly basis.



- She will e-mail further information about the feasibility of surveying this group to Jeanne Blackburn for dissemination to the Emerging Issues Subcommittee.
- The group decided that because SROs are sometimes the first to come into contact with youth who have not yet been engaged in the juvenile justice or treatment system, a survey of SROs would be a good first survey for the group to undertake, with likely questions to be included:
  - Within the last six months, what types of drug use have you seen;
  - Has there been an increase in drug use; if so, which drug(s)?
  - Has there been a decrease in drug use; if so, which drug(s)?
  - (For certain populations surveyed), are the drugs on the street increasing/decreasing in price; have they increased/decreased in purity level?
- Richard Porter indicated that a good second survey would be the providers of substance abuse services.

#### **Lifepath Project: Additional Monetary Data**

- There has been no additional monetary data submitted to be included on the Lifepath Project.
  - Jeanne Blackburn suggested that the Emerging Issues Subcommittee not include any further monetary data as waiting for such data will hinder the release of the Spotlight Report.
  - Dennis Embry suggested adding information from research studies on the average cost of lifetime conduct disorders to strengthen the project instead of waiting for further monetary data.
  - Jeanne Blackburn suggested completing this project as soon as possible in order to send it to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group within the next few months.
  - Gary Wolf will follow up with Michelle Anderson to add any updates on the three cases included in the Life Path Project so that this project is up-to-date when it is submitted to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.
  - Jeanne Blackburn will follow up with the other agencies (i.e., non-ADJC) who contributed data to update these three cases.

#### **Call to Public**

- No one from the public was present to provide comment.

**Adjourn** at 3:00 p.m. by Dennis Embry with a reminder that the next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).